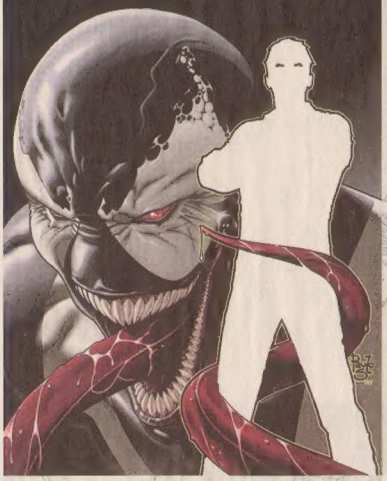
COMIC SHOP NEWS



Venom's Back in a Flash

Flash Thompson has been a part of the Marvel Universe for almost a half-century now, growing from a high school bully to a close friend of Peter Parker to a loyal soldier whose selfless actions cost him his legs.

But his story isn't over. In fact, his most unusual chapter is just beginning!

In March, Flash Thompson will assume his new role as the next Venom—a battle-damaged soldier merged with an alien symbiote to become the ultimate military weapon.

The new ***Venom*** series will be produced by the team of *Rick Remender* and *Tony Moore*, the team responsible for Dark Horse's ***Fear Agent*** and Marvel's ***Franken-Castle***. The two are looking forward to continuing their creative collaboration in this addition to the Spider-man family.

Editor *Steve Wacker* explained the reasons behind the changes in store for Venom and Flash Thompson. "My problem with Venom as a lead character was that he was such a bad guy that it became hard to make a hero out of him—after all, he's eating people in half of our books! We realized that Venom was a character that people gravitated towards; they *liked* him, but I could never quite wrap my head around the 'Lethal Protector' angle of it all... we needed to change things up a bit," Wacker said. "We had Flash Thompson out there, and we had a basic idea that Flash could become a good host for the Venom symbiote"

The result is a *very* different Venom. Rather than focusing on the potential lethality of the character, "***Venom*** will be a very military-based book; it sort of pulls from as much of the real world mechanics of the military as we can," writer *Rick Remender* said. "He's got advanced technology; he's got the armed forces behind him—but it's just the U.S. armed forces," he said, stressing that this isn't the story of a super-secret S.H.I.E.L.D. operation or anything of that nature. Wacker added that this means that Venom will have more at his disposal than "just his giant teeth."

So why doesn't the Venom costume drive Flash into a homicidal rage, as it has other hosts? "We have rules for that," Remender said. "You can't wear it for more than a couple days at a time before you have to go back to base and have it removed before it starts bonding with your psyche."

For Flash Thompson, who has a history of bullying, anger management issues, alcoholism, and repressed hostility, controlling the symbiote is crucial. Otherwise, "he could start killing people indiscriminately, losing control over what he's doing," Remender said. "He's a ticking tomb bomb in that respect. But I think of Flash as a black-ops character, a Marine, and someone who's serving his country—he's a true patriot to do what he's doing here. To that end, he *is* willing to take a life—but we're going to handle that in the smartest way possible. He won't be mowing down a room full of faceless villains."

Remender also said that there will be a twenty mission limit imposed to ensure that Flash doesn't become irretrievably bonded with the symbiote.

Of course, there's an up side to the symbiotic relationship as far as Flash is concerned. "He's a person who became disabled serving his country, and now he's no longer wheelchair bound," Remender said. "He's soaring through the city, or bounding through the Savage Land. "There's a lot of character stuff to be explored in terms of how Flash is going to react to that!"

Readers who remember Flash Thompson as a major member of Spider-Man's supporting cast won't be disappointed with this series, Remender said. "This is Flash's big moment. He's a classic Marvel character, and now we have a chance to focus on him."

The new symbiote-agent won't be the only character reinvention that readers will find in the pages of ***Venom***. There will also be a "revised and renewed" Jack O'Lantern, as well as a "big new boss on the scene" whose identity is sure to intrigue fans as it's revealed over the course of the series.

Who came up with the idea of reinventing Flash—who had always been an enthusiastic fan of Spider-Man—as a military-grade superhero in his own right? "The set-up for ***Venom*** originated with [***Amazing Spider-Man*** writer *Dan] Slott* and Wacker," Remender said. "Once they told me the basic concept, and who the main character would be, I was sold. International adventures of 00Venom—c'mon, that's good comic booking! Dan and I worked up a few ideas for supporting cast and rules for Venom and both went off to write. The initial set up issue will be by Dan in ***Amazing Spider-Man #654.1***—you won't want to miss that. Then the story picks up in ***Venom #1***."

As Remender explained, ***Venom*** combines espionage, brutal adventure, and even a touch of horror. "The tone merges the same brand of ferocious hardcore violence fans of Venom would expect with the international high adventure of ***The Bourne Identity***, globe trotting from bleak Eastern European war zones to exotic Marvel Universe locations like the Savage Land. It's James Bond-style worldwide adventuring with high stakes espionage, intrigue, fast action, and an opening mission that holds the stability of the world in the balance."

The first arc deals with an international crime lord and arms dealer who invades the Savage Land in search of vibranium that he has learned how to transform into bullets. He has to be stopped, Remember said, or else "you've just armed the planet with these unstoppable bullets—and at that point, things descend into chaos!"

Will the Venom meet other Marvel heroes in the course of his missions? "Of course," Remender said. "Telling how they react would give away some of the things we have coming up in the future, but there are all sorts of possibilities, since most people know Venom as 'the person eater.'"

"Spider-Man's reaction is a huge point in this," Wacker added. "We're not only going to see ramifications of that in ***Venom***, but we're also going to see it in ***Amazing Spider-Man***. This is leading to something really big in Spider-Man this summer."

Remender is thrilled to be working with *Tony Moore* on ***Venom***. "If you know Tony's work from our last collaboration on ***Punisher*** or ***Fear Agent***, or his co-creation ***The Walking Dead***, or his run on ***Ghost Rider***, then you know the guy can do monsters, action, and distinctive tech like few others. And he's a world-class storyteller; he puts story before all else. But at his core, Tony is a monster guy—he loves creatures and it shows in his work. So putting him on ***Venom*** is a no-brainer in my eyes. And having seen his designs and some of the other stuff he's got coming up, I can say with total confidence, there isn't a better man for the job."

Venom #1, a $3.99 comic that features a stunning cover by Marvel EIC and CCO *Joe Quesada*, along with a variant cover from rising star *Paulo Siqueira*, is slated for March release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Flashpoints to Big Things on the Horizon

We all knew that the upcoming *Geoff Johns* event ***Flashpoint*** was going to be big, but no one realized just how big until DC began to share some information regarding the storyline and its related limited series.

According to DC's *David Hyde* at the company's blog The Source, "***Flashpoint*** spans the DC Universe from the dark streets of Gotham to the ruins of Big Ben. It's an international tale of action and intrigue that impacts an entire universe.

Geoff Johns and *Andy Kubert* and *Sandra Hope* are creating an epic five-issue series, one with a scope so big and ambitious that there will be fifteen mini series expanding on the events, along with several important one shots.

"This isn't a parallel Earth.

"This isn't a mirror world.

"This is home."

DC has revealed the title of fourteen of those fifteen limited series, conveniently grouped into subcategories. And here they are:

Whatever Happened to Gotham City?
- ***Flashpoint: Batman Knight of Vengeance #s 1-3***
- ***Flashpoint: Deadman and the Flying Graysons #s 1-3***

Whatever Happened to the World's Greatest Super Villains?
- ***Flashpoint: Citizen Cold #s 1-3***
- ***Flashpoint: Deathstroke & the Curse of the Ravager #s 1-3***
- ***Flashpoint: The Outsider #s 1-3***

Whatever Happened to the Aliens?
- ***Flashpoint: Abin Sur the Green Lantern #s 1-3***
- ***Flashpoint: Project Superman #s 1-3***

Whatever Happened to Science & Magic?
- ***Flashpoint: Frankenstein & the Creatures of the Unknown #s 1-3***
- ***Flashpoint: Secret Seven #s 1-3***

Whatever Happened to Europe?
- ***Flashpoint: Emperor Aquaman #s 1-3***
- ***Flashpoint: Wonder Woman and the Furies #s 1-3***
- ***Flashpoint: Lois Lane and the Resistance #s 1-3***

Everything You Know Will Change in a Flash
- ***Flashpoint: Kid Flash Lost #s 1-3***
- ***Flashpoint: The World of Flashpoint #s 1-3***

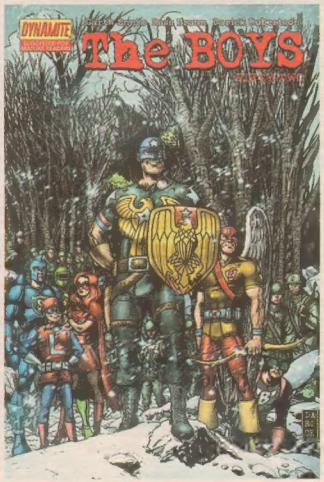
So what about that fifteenth book? Well, the end of *Time Masters: Vanishing Point #6* does include a reference to *S!HIAIZ!AIM!* on Rip Hunter's chalkboard, and there's no ***Shazam!*** related project on the list above...

Archie's Off to See the Lizard

Archie Andrews knows pretty much every square inch of his hometown, Riverdale—but this spring, he's venturing far away from home in an adventure that replaces high school with jungles and troublesome teachers with dinosaurs!

"The Lost Land," a storyline written by *Tom DeFalco* that launches in ***Archie #621,*** finds Archie and the Riverdale gang heading south of the Equator on an archeological expedition. While on a routine hike, they discover dinosaur bones that are only a few months old … and then come across even more – in the mouth of a very real, and hungry, dinosaur!

Archie #621 is slated for late May release.



Just One of the Boys...

In the pages of ***The Boys,*** *Garth Ennis* has offered a number of disturbing looks at the dark side of contemporary superheroics—but in "Barbary Coast," a storyline that kicks off in ***The Boys #52,*** readers are about to learn that the twisted history of superheroics dates back a couple of generations further than many readers realized.

"Barbary Coast" introduces readers to Lieutenant-Colonel Greg Mallory, a man whose military history brought him face-to-face with the first generation of super-powered beings. "He's ex-US Army, ex-CIA," *Garth Ennis* said. "He's the man who first identified the need for an Agency-backed unit to monitor superhumans."

The solicitation info for ***The Boys #52*** describes Mallory as "the man who started the Boys." Does that mean that there are earlier generations of the Boys? Have they been around for far longer than readers initially realized? Not exactly, Ennis explained. "The Boys have been operating since the mid-nineties. Mallory, however, has been conducting his own private investigations for much longer than that. He recruited Butcher about ten years before the other three."

Ennis describes "Barbary Coast" as "the other side of the story the Legend told Hughie about thirty issues back. It's the last sixty years of US history with superhuman developments woven in. Lots of history, lots of politics—my favorite kind of story to tell!"

Are those Golden Age heroes analogues of classic 1940s superheroes, complete with the archetypal Golden Age characteristics of patriotism, innate goodness, and adherence to justice? "In this case, the WW2-era supes are roughly the Golden Age versions of Payback, with one or two additions and subtractions," Ennis said. "Their group has a different name, but you'll recognize most of the characters. Their deployment as a combat unit has not been particularly well thought out by the army top brass, and it comes at a pretty bad time in the war anyway."

What effect will the events of this story have on Hughie's potential return? "What Hughie learns here will inform his attitude to the Boys upon his return," Ennis said. "He'll have a lot to digest. It'll probably come as no surprise that his main reservations involve the current team leader."

Is this an interlude story, or will the characters we meet in here—Mallory and the heroes this story introduces—play a role in the endgame of ***The Boys*** as a series? "Some will, some won't," Ennis said. "We're going to learn a good deal more about a character who was briefly mentioned in the Legend's story, someone quite crucial to the development of superhumans and their world. The ramifications of that will be with us all the way to the end."

The Boys #52, part one of the two-part "Barbary Coast" story arc by *Garth Ennis & John McCrea,* is slated for March release.

Bantam & Dynamite Sing George R.R. Martin's Song

Fans of *George R.R. Martin* have already heard that HBO is working on an adaptation of his ***Game of Thrones,*** the first book in the ***Song of Ice and Fire*** series. Now comes news that Bantam Books (a division of Random House) and Dynamite Entertainment are adapting the saga to comics beginning in late spring, first as limited series and later as collected editions. The series will be illustrated by *Tommy Patterson* and adapted by *Daniel Abraham,* the award-winning and bestselling author of ***The Long Price Quartet.***

The series is set long ago in a world whose sea-

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, PETER?
YOU KNOW IT, HONEY.
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"HE WENT RIGHT FOR MY THROAT!" SAYS FELON

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
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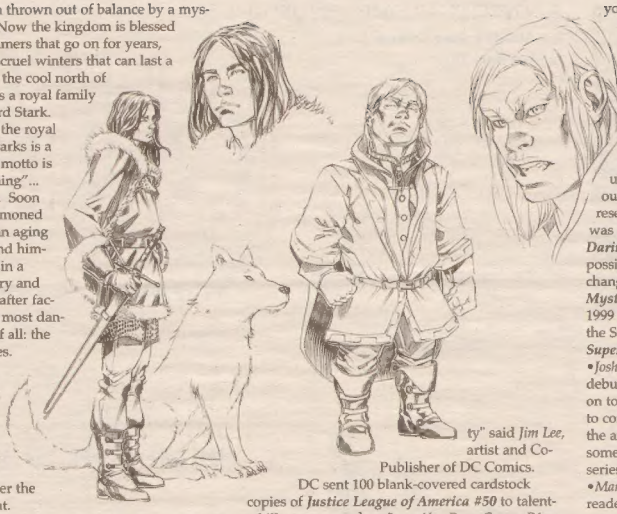
sons have been thrown out of balance by a mysterious event. Now the kingdom is blessed by golden summers that go on for years, and cursed by cruel winters that can last a generation. In the cool north of this kingdom is a royal family ruled by Eddard Stark. The symbol of the royal house of the Starks is a direwolf; their motto is "Winter is coming"... as indeed, it is. Soon Eddard is summoned south to help an aging king only to find himself enmeshed in a web of treachery and lies, as faction after faction plays that most dangerous game of all: the game of thrones.

Dynamite will publish the individual comics and then package the collections, which will be published under the Bantam imprint.



ty" said *Jim Lee*, artist and Co-Publisher of DC Comics.

DC sent 100 blank-covered cardstock copies of ***Justice League of America #50*** to talented illustrators such as Lee, *Alex Ross, George Pérez, Jason Bone, & Jim Valentino;* those creators supplied cover images to accompany the story, and those 100 covers will be featured in the special edition, which is slated for release later this year.

•***R.E.B.E.L.S.*** #26 will feature pencils by *Daniel HDR* rather than the previously announced *Claude St. Aubin; Scott Hanna* remains on board as inker, however.

•***Fear Itself Prologue*** has been retitled ***Fear Itself: Book of the Skull,*** and has expanded from 32 to 40 pages.

•The Point One Initiative issue of ***Deadpool*** has been rescheduled as ***Deadpool #33.1,*** not the originally-announced ***Deadpool #32.1.***

•Marvel has added a *Mike Mignola* cover edition of ***Annihilators #1*** (DEC108188); this is a no-restrictions variant, so be sure to let the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop know if you'd like a copy!

•*Neil Edwards* has been tapped to illustrate ***Herc #s 1 & 2,*** replacing the originally-announced *Georges Jeanty.*

•So who are ***The Mystery Men?*** Can't say for sure yet—but what we *can* say is that this is Marvel's next mystery project, and it's slated for June release. While it's not clear which characters will be featured in the upcoming project, astute observers have point out that at least one of the shadowy figures resembles the Golden Age hero the Fin, who was recently featured in the *David Liss*-written ***Daring Mystery Comics Special #1...*** (And it's possible that the name may undergo some changes prior to launch, since *Bob Burden's* ***Mystery Men*** were featured in both comics and a 1999 film, while Dynamite as a group known as the Super-Mysterymen in the pages of ***Project Superpowers.)***

•*Josh Middleton,* the popular comics artist who debuted on Crossgen's ***Meridian*** before moving on to work for both Marvel and DC, is returning to comics in 2011 after almost a year and a half in the animation field. Look for Middleton to supply some cover art before tackling a new ongoing series.

•*Mark Kidwell, Nat Jones, Tim Vigil, & Jay Fotos* take readers back to 1968 in ***'68 #1,*** the kickoff issue of a four-part sequel to their zombie oneshot of the same name. The miniseries follows an American tunnel rat in a one-man war against zombies in the jungles of 'Nam. Look for it in April.

•Can't tell the players without a program? Well, ***The Walking Dead Survivor's Guide*** is the four-part program you've been looking for! In its quartet of 32-page issues it will offer a handy checklist of every character who has appeared in the AMC series ***The Walking Dead.*** The series kicks off in April.

•*Rich Johnston* provides the backstory for a pair of biographical oneshots from Markosia. ***Kate Middleton: A Very Private Princess*** and ***William Windsor: A Very Public Prince*** offers a look at the lives of the couple whose engagement propelled them into the public spotlight, while ***Kate & William: A Very Public Love Story TP*** collects both books in a single volume. Look for 'em in mid-April... just in time for the highly publicized April 29th wedding!

•*Mike Wolfer* supplies the story and the art for Avatar's ***Night of the Living Dead 2011 Annual.*** The story follows a group of refugees who seek to escape the zombie hordes by fleeing to the bayous of Louisiana... but apparently the zombies didn't get the memo! Witness the mayhem (and there'll be *lots* of it) in late April.

•Cancer is distressing enough in the best of situations... but Alan Gates' cancer is much more life-changing than the typical carcinoma. It turns out that his tumor is actually a mysterious parasite—and rather than ending his life, it's giving him incredible, otherworldly powers. Soon he finds himself fighting a hidden evil while learning secrets about his own forgotten past... and you can learn about those secrets in Boom Studios' ***Malignant Man #1*** by *James Wan, Michael Alan Nelson, & Piotr Kowalski,* an April release.

•*Charles Santino & Joe Staton* adapt one of the 20th Century's most powerful tales of individualism and will in ***Ayn Rand's Anthem,*** a 144-page graphic novel adaptation of Rand's philosophically charged science fiction novel. In a society in which individualism is discouraged and even crushed by society, Equality 7-2521 places his life in jeopardy by thinking for himself and choosing his own path in life. The graphic novel is slated for April release from NAL.

•*Alex Toth's* critically acclaimed but rarely seen 1950s comic strip ***Jon Fury*** is collected in ***Alex Toth: The Adventures of Jon Fury in Japan Special Edition,*** a 64-page full-color collection that features two full tales—one that follows Fury as he searches for his twin brother Dirk, the other plunging him into a world of blackmail and murder in Hollywood. The issue also includes Toth's final interview as well as unpublished art.

•*J. David Spurlock's* efforts to give fans the highest quality reproductions of *Frank Frazetta's* early work is about to pay off when ***Vanguard Frazetta Classics vol 1:***

The Complete Johnny Comet reaches stores next month. "Collecting the famous Frazetta newspaper strip from the 1950s, the book was originally planned to all be shot in black and white from Frank's personal set of proofs, but we found that the Sundays were missing," Spurlock explained. "We scanned the dailies at 3600 ppi for quality and clarity. Tracking down originals to run the Sundays from proved impossible.

CSNsider

•DC Comics and The Hero Initiative, a charity dedicated to helping comic creators in medical or financial need, are collaborating for the first time this spring with a special ***Justice League of America #50 Cover Project*** volume, featuring 100 striking cover images created by some of the field's most talented illustrators especially for this project.

"It's an honor to participate, not only because this is the first time DC Comics is collaborating with Hero Initiative, but because Hero Initiative is such an important organization to our communi-

JONAH JAMESON'S REALLY STEPPED OVER THE LINE THIS TIME.
DOES THE BUGLE WANT TO PANIC THE CITY WITH A HEADLINE ABOUT A "VAMPIRE"?
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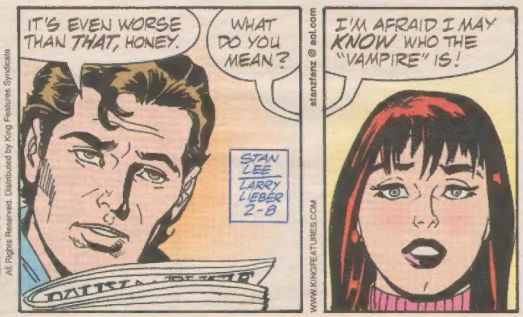
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STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-8
DAILY
I'M AFRAID I MAY KNOW WHO THE "VAMPIRE" IS!
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"*Bill Stout*, who wrote an essay for the book, mentioned to the graphic designer, *Randall Dahlk*, that he had a number of Sundays from the newspapers and suggested we collect the Sundays in color–which has *never* been done before! This idea, in addition to running dailies from Frank's proofs, top quality printing, and paper, makes the book far superior to all prior collections. Sounds simple—it wasn't.

"After much research, we were able to piece together the collection of nearly 60-year-old pulp, newsprint color strips from various sources -- was like an archeological dig. Also, nearly all of the papers that ran the strip, ran the two-tier versions of the Sundays instead of the half-page/three-tier versions. We spend a *lot* of time continuing to look for three-tier Sundays even after we had the two-tier versions in our hands. Then came unbelievable man-hours spent by a small staff creating new, digitally-restored color-corrected separations.... "

See for yourself just how stunning the results are, when ***The Complete Johnny Comet*** arrives in comic shops in March.

Nate Simpson Is Non-Playing Around

Image Comics carries on its tradition of introducing the best new talent with an all-new title from rising star Nate Simpson. Combining references to

Massively multi-player online roleplaying games... science fiction... fantasy... *Nate Simpson* has worked it all into ***NonPlayer #1***, the kickoff issue of a six-part limited series. And if seems like Simpson knows his videogames, there's a good reason: he was a concept artist for the videogame industry prior to taking a year off to "learn how to make comics."

NonPlayer is the story of Dana Stevens, a young woman who retreats from the dismal workaday world of the future into the digital fantasy realm of Jarvath, where she's a fearless warrior. Dana is not alone in her pursuits, however, and before long, her adventures begin to cat-and-mouse back and forth between the two worlds.

"A comic book is just about the most elaborate thing a person can create without assistance, which sounds like heaven to somebody who's spent fourteen years in video game development," Simpson explained. "I've had a lot of fun putting all the nuts and bolts of this story together and figuring out how best to approach everything in terms of production, and I can't wait to share this story with people."

"It's always a pleasure to link up with a creator as well-rounded and imaginative as Nate," Image publisher *Eric Stephenson* said. "Every aspect of ***NonPlayer*** is so well-considered, it's like working with an old pro. As first timers go, Nate is one of the most impressive I've ever seen."

The dual worlds of ***NonPlayer***—both Dana's real world and the lavish gameworld in which prefers to spend her time— are depicted in Simpson's detailed rendering, as readers can see for themselves in early april, when ***NonPlayer #1*** is scheduled for release.

Moonstone Get in Gear with Neutral World

In recent months, Moonstone Entertainment has focused on its pulp and horror-suspense lines, but 2011 is the year that the publisher is venturing into science fiction in a big way with ***Neutral World***, an epic SF project written by *Ron Fortier* and illustrated by fan-favorite artist *Joe Bennett*.

Fortier is best known for his pulp and adventure work, both in prose and in comics, while Bennett has built a fan following with his energetic work at both DC and Marvel.

Bennett's work for the series shows unmistakable signs of his lifelong appreciation for the work of *Jack Kirby;* both the epic, almost cosmic tone of the story and the bold, distinctive character designs show Kirbyesque touches—which is only appropriate, since Bennett sees the book as his ultimate homage to the man whose creative vision was so inspirational.

The ***Neutral World*** saga, which run almost 200 pages, will be published in three full-color graphic novels; Fortier and Bennett will be joined by painter *Mark Maddox*, who supplies the cover art for each volume.

Prior to launching the first graphic novel, however, Moonstone will introduce readers to ***Neutral World*** with a sixteen-page 99¢ full-color preview comic that includes a nine-page action sequence from the first volume along with seven gorgeous character sketches, complete with character biographies. Look for it later this spring, with the graphic novel series to follow in early summer.

Back to Press

- ***Age of X Alpha #1 2nd Printing Age of X Variant*** (Marvel - DEC108148), in stores this week.
- ***Age of X Alpha #1 2nd Printing Conrad Variant*** (Marvel - DEC108154), in stores this week.
- ***Amazing Spider-Man #651 2nd Printing*** (Marvel - DEC108139), in stores 3/2.
- ***Amazing Spider-Man #652 2nd Printing*** (Marvel - DEC108140), in stores 3/2.
- ***Fantastic Four #587 2nd Printing*** (Marvel - DEC108134), in stores this week.
- ***Infestation #1 2nd Printing*** (IDW - DEC108147), in stores this week.
- ***Invincible Iron Man #500 2nd Printing*** (Marvel - DEC108141), in stores 3/2.
- ***Wolverine & Jubilee #1 2nd Printing*** (Marvel - DEC108142), in stores 3/2.

ANNIHILATORS #1 (OF 4)

Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning (W); Tan Eng Huat (A)
(Marvel JAN110742 4.99)

What's the Scoop?

When the Dire Wraiths strike, it's up to Marvel's cosmic heroes—the Silver Surfer, Beta Ray Bill, Gladiator, Quasar, and Ronan—to save the day! And as a bonus, each issue also features a backup tale starring Rocket Raccoon and Groot!

Why Should You Care?

Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning continue their role as Marvel's masters of all things cosmic with this intergalactic all-star miniseries.

AVENGERS: CHILDREN'S CRUSADE–YOUNG AVENGERS #1

Allan Heinberg (W); Alan Davis (A)
(Marvel JAN110701 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

As a result of the Young Avengers' crusade to find the Scarlet Witch, Patriot has become Captain America, Hulkling has become Captain Marvel, and Iron Lad has become the Avengers' new leader, Kang the Conqueror. But the future of these new Avengers is deeply rooted in the untold story of the Young Avengers very first adventure—and adventure revealed here for the first time!

Why Should You Care?

Allan Heinberg explores the Young Avengers' origins for the very first time—and he's joined by comics artist *Alan Davis*, one of the most gifted illustrators working in comics today!

DEATH OF ZORRO #1

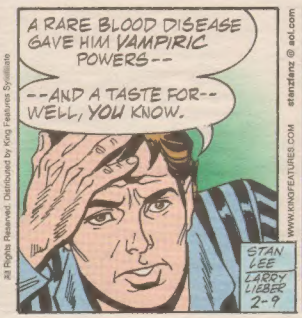
Ande Parks (W); Esteve Polls (A)
(Dynamite JAN111086 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Zorro, now in hiss sixties, ends his well-deserved retirement to defend a nearby Indian settlement against renegade Confederates... and pays for that decision with his life. Now it's up to another masked man—the Lone Ranger—to complete his mission.

Why Should You Care?

Two of popular culture's best-known heroes unite without meeting in this unique tale that chronicles the death of a comics legend.



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COMICS: MARCH

FEAR ITSELF PROLOGUE

Ed Brubaker (W); Scot Eaton (A)
(Marvel JAN110692 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

All the Red Skull's terrible secrets and plans are in the hands of his evil daughter, Sin, who's intent on outdoing her father... But before we can see what she has in store, we have to learn more about those Red Skull secrets

Why Should You Care?

Marvel's biggest event of the year kicks off next month—but thanks to *Ed Brubaker & Scot Eaton*, you can get a sneak peek as to where this story is going!

FF #1

Jonathan Hickman (W); Steve Epting (A)
(Marvel JAN110748 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of Johnny Storm's heroic demise, the surviving members of Marvel's First Family embark on the next chapter of their heroic existence in a tale that features new members, old friends, older enemies and uneasy alliances .

Why Should You Care?

The Torch's death made ***Fantastic Four #587*** the hottest book so far this year—and every comics fan who enjoyed that issue is going to want to know what *Jonathan Hickman* has planned next for the Marvel's founding super-team.

FLASH #10 (FLASHPOINT)

Geoff Johns (W); Francis Manapul (A)
(DC NOV100194 $2.99)

FLASH #11 (FLASHPOINT)

Geoff Johns (W); Francis Manapul (A)
(DC JAN110255 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The new speedster known as Hot Pursuit has arrived on his Cosmic Motorcycle, but what terrible warning has he brought with him? And what does it have to do with the Flashpoint?...

Why Should You Care?

This issue lays the groundwork for ***Flashpoint***, DC's biggest event of 2011—and it's brought to you by *Geoff Johns*. You might recall the response to the last DCU event that Johns launched... you know, that ***Blackest Night*** thing...

HELLRAISER #1

Clive Barker, Christopher Monfette (W); Leonardo Manco (A)
(Boom JAN111031 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Pinhead is the best known of all the Cenobites... and his final tale begins here!

Why Should You Care?

The return of the splatterpunk sensation ***Hellraiser*** is noteworthy enough—but when best-selling author *Clive Barker* return to his most famous creation to write this original tale, the prospect of missing it would be *truly* horrifying!...

INCREDIBLE CHANGE BOTS TWO GN

Jeffrey Brown (W/A)
(Top Shelf JAN111337 $14.95)

What's the Scoop?

Four years ago, an alien race of shape-changing robots came to Earth, fired ray guns at each other for a while, then gave up and flew away. But they left behind one thing: Shootertron, the semi-cunning leader of the evil Fantasticons! Fortunately for Earth, Shootertron's memory is a little fuzzy. *Unfortunately* for Earth, the rest of the Incredible Change-Bots seem to be on their way back!

Why Should You Care?

Acclaimed creator *Jeffrey Brown* returns to the heroes he initially introduced in his charming original graphic novel ***The Incredible Change-Bots***—and fans of Saturday morning cartoons and Transformers are in for a real treat!

OWLY & WORMY HC: FRIENDS ALL AFLUTTER

Andy Runton (W/A)
(Top Shelf DEC101051 $15.99)

What's the Scoop?

Owly and Wormy wants some butterflies. But when they come home from the nursery with a plant that will attract some fluttering friends, all that shows up are fat, green bug things... what do *they* have to do with butterflies?

Why Should You Care?

Andy Runton's tales of wordless wonderment are designed to appeal to "readers" of all ages—and judging from the success of the prior ***Owly*** graphic novels, he's pretty successful at what he does!

RUSE #1 (OF 4)

Mark Waid (W); Mirco Pierfederici (A)
(Marvel JAN110677 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Renowned as the Victorian world's greatest detective, Simon Archard is the most intelligent of men. But when he crosses paths with the mysterious and enchanting Emma Bishop, has the smartest man in the world met his equal?

Why Should You Care?

Not only is Marvel kicking off its Crossgen relaunch this month with this steampunk-fantasy detective series, they're also enlisting acclaimed writer *Mark Waid* (who co-created ***Ruse*** and chronicled Archard's exploits for Crossgen) to tell these new tales!

TAKIO GN HC

Brian Bendis (W); Michael Avon Oeming (A)
(Icon/Marvel DEC100634 $9.95)

What's the Scoop?

Two sisters in a multiracial, adoptive family experience a one-of-a-kind, once-in-a-lifetime accident gives them real-life incredible abilities, they become the first actual superheroes in the entire world.

Why Should You Care?

Powers creators *Brian Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming* launch the Icon imprint's first original graphic novel series with this energetic, clever all-ages series.

ULTIMATE COMICS SPIDER-MAN #156

Brian Bendis (W); Mark Bagley (A)
(Marvel JAN110689 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

"With great power comes great responsibility." Peter Parker is about to learn just what price that responsibility can carry as "The Death of Spider-Man" begins..

Why Should You Care?

Ultimate Spider-Man's original creative team of *Brian Bendis & Mar Bagley* reunite for the tale will change Spidey—and the Ultimate Universe—in unbelievable ways.

VENOM #1

Rick Remender (W); Tony Moore (A)
(Marvel JAN110667 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

There's a new Venom, and his name is Flash Thompson. That's right, Peter Parker's one-time bully and long-time friend is back, and he's the man in the black symbiote-suit who's using his new-found abilities to reinvent himself as one of the government's top covert agents.

HERE YOU ARE, IN TIME FOR REHEARSAL.
HONEY, IF YOU LOOK UP DR. MORBIUS--
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-10
Picture Perfect
stanzfanz @ aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

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Why Should You Care?
Rick Remender & Tony Moore reinvent one of Marvel's most notorious villains as one of Marvel's newest heroes—and they manage to tie it in to long-time Spidey history at the same time!

WARLORD OF MARS: DEJAH THORIS #1

Arvid Nelson (W); Carlos Rafael (A)
(Dynamite JAN111094 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?
Martians are notoriously long-lived—and that means that Dejah Thoris had centuries of experiences prior to meeting John Carter. Now some of those secrets from her Martian history are about to be revealed...

Why Should You Care?
Arvid Nelson uses *Edgar Rice Burroughs'* Mars novels as a foundation for this original tale of Dejah Thoris's hitherto-unexplored past. If you like ***Warlord of Mars,*** you're not going to want to miss this spinoff!

XOMBI #1

John Rozum (W); Frazer Irving (A)
(DC JAN110259 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
David Kim may be the nanotech-enhanced man who cannot die, but it's the rest of the world that seems to be losing its humanity. So where can a Xombi go to find a kindred soul?

Why Should You Care?
Xombi creator *John Rozum* is joined by hot artist *Frazer Irving* for this series reinvention that stresses the horror and the humanity of David Kim's undying destiny.

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #100

(TwoMorrows JAN111351 $19.95)
Roy Thomas and his fifty years of ***Alter Ego,*** are the focus of this centennial issue. The highlight is an interview with Thomas himself. (Can it be true? We can actually remember ordering ***Alter Ego #3*** back in those early days! Where did the time go?)

COMICS: ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF COMIC STRIP ART HC

(Dark Horse NOV100043 $39.99)
Comics legend *Jerry Robinson* offers an updated history of comic strip art in this collection that explores the history and development of the art form from the pre-***Yellow Kid*** days to the present.

GIRL SPECIAL #1

(Image JAN110559 $3.50)
Bomb Queen continues her war against the world when she travels to London to kill the Queen of England. But Madame Queen has a few super heroine tricks up her sleeve, too—and *Jimmie Robinson* is about to reveal them in this delightfully wicked oneshot.

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

ADVENTURE COMICS #524

(DC JAN110298 $2.99)
Paul Levitz & Phil Jimenez continue their tales of the Legion Academy. And believe us, *any* project that unites two creators of this caliber is a book you should be reading!...

AN ELEGY FOR AMELIA JOHNSON HC

(Archaia JAN110937 $14.95)
In her 30 years on earth, Amelia Johnson has touched many lives with her compassion, intelligence and spirit. Now, at the end of a yearlong battle with cancer, she asks her two closest friends to take her final messages to the people who have touched her life the most in this powerful graphic novel by *Andrew Roslan, Kate Kasenow, & Dave Valeza.*

AXE COP: BAD GUY EARTH #1 (OF 3)

(Dark Horse JAN110079 $3.50)
Brothers *Malachai & Ethan Nicolle* continue their amazingly zany and offbeat comic creation in an all-new miniseries.

BIRDS OF PREY #10

(DC JAN110279 $2.99)
Gail Simone & Inaki Miranda present the astonishing conclusion to 'The Death of Oracle,' featuring nearly everyone whose life has been touched by Oracle, both villain and hero.

BOMB QUEEN ALL GHOSTBUSTERS: INFESTATION #1 (OF 2)

(IDW JAN110467 $3.99)
IDW's zombie-crossover adventure continues! Thanks to a plague of poltergeists that resist long-term storage in the containment grid, the Ghostbusters are dealing with a surplus of work... and their job is only going to get harder when Britt's zombies try to take a nibble out of the Big Apple!

GI JOE: INFESTATION #1 (OF 2)

(IDW JAN110472 $3.99)
And here's another installment of IDW's zombie saga! A robotic arm of unknown origin has been discovered and both the Joes and COBRA race to discover its secrets. Little do the two sides know that the arm has its own agenda—assimilating the world's military technology into the Infestation fold!

GUILD: TINK ONE SHOT

(Dark Horse JAN110113 $3.50)
Felicia Day returns to her Internet and comics sensation ***The Guild*** with a story spotlighting the Knights of Good's most mysterious member, Tinkerballa.

JIMMY OLSEN #1

(DC JAN110291 $5.99)
Presenting the entire *Nick Spencer* Jimmy Olsen tale that began in ***Action Comics,*** including thirty pages never seen until now.

SEA GHOST #1

(Nemo JAN111269 $3.99)
Jay Piscopo presents a Hanna-Barbera-esque all-ages oneshot starring an integral hero from the pages of ***The Undersea Adventures of Capt'n Eli.*** It's like a classic Silver Age comic you've never seen before!

UNCLE SCROOGE #401

(Boom JAN111065 $3.99)
Boom Studios spotlights the brilliant work of *Don Rosa*—the heir apparent to the *Carl Barks* mantle—in a collection of hard-to-find tales compiled into a single comic for the first time.

WULF #1

(Ardden JAN110955 $2.99)
Steve Niles & Nat Jones resurrect the Atlas barbarian hero in a tale that brings Wulf the Barbarian into the 21st Century - literally!

THE BUGLE SAID DR. MORBIUS' NEW OFFICES ARE IN THAT BUILDING...
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-11
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SO I'LL JUST PAY HIM A VISIT.
BUT HE WON'T RECOGNIZE PETER PARKER...
SO I'LL SHOW UP AS SOMEONE HE KNOWS!
MOVIE TOONS FEATURES.COM
stanzfilms @ aol.com

Hot Commodities:
March's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN BLACK & WHITE STATUE JOKER BY LEE BERMEJO
(DC Direct AUG100294 $80.00)
The art of Lee Bermejo, illustrator of the best-selling ***Joker*** graphic novel, is the inspiration for this monochromatic statue depicting the Clown Prince of Crime.

BRIGHTEST DAY SERIES 1 AQUAMAN ACTION FIGURE
(DC Direct AUG100288 $28.00)

BRIGHTEST DAY SERIES 1 DEADMAN ACTION FIGURE
(DC Direct AUG100291 $28.00)

BRIGHTEST DAY SERIES 1 GREEN ARROW ACTION FIGURE
(DC Direct AUG100289 $28.00)

BRIGHTEST DAY SERIES 1 HAWKGIRL ACTION FIGURE 3
(DC Direct AUG100290 $28.00)
Four core characters from ***Brightest Day*** are featured in the first set of event-inspired action figures.

GREEN LANTERN HONOR GUARD RING PROP REPLICA
(DC Direct JAN110450 $35.00)
Cast in silver metal with a green enamel inlay, the ring also features decorative ridges around the band. The ring comes packaged in a two-part box foil-stamped with the Green Lantern logo and with protective foam inside

HULK GREEN RETRO MINI BUST
(Bowen JAN111787 $95.00)
The classic Green Goliath is featured in this striking Bowen Studios sculpture. If you missed out on the earlier Bowen Hulk bust and don't want to spend a fortune to track one down, here's your chance to add a Bowen Hulk to your display case at a reasonable price!

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE STATUE: GREEN ARROW
(DC Direct AUG100283 $85.00)

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE STATUE: WONDER WOMAN
(DC Direct AUG100282 $85.00)
Jim Lee's design art for the hit DC Online MMORPG is the inspiration for these affordably priced midsized statues depicting the DCU's most popular heroes.

TWO FACE 1:2 SCALE BUST
(DC FEB110280 $295.00)
The man once known as Harvey Dent appears here in his classic comic-book style, dressed in his trademark dual-fabric suit, shirt and tie, which are finely tailored over his cold-cast porcelain body. Half of his face appears eerily charred, and both of his resin eyes are hauntingly realistic. Mounted on a museum-style, pedestal display base, this mixed-media piece measures approximately 13' high.

ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN: GREEN LANTERN VS SINESTRO STATUE SET
(DC Direct AUG100281 $175.00)
Hal Jordan confronts his most notorious adversary in this two-statue set. Each character is displayed on a specially designed stand-alone base intended to 'interact' with the other statues in the series and to be displayed in a myriad of ways. The statues can pivot independently on their bases and rotate their heads to customize and direct the action. Collect all the other statue sets in the series! Mix and match them to create your own showdown or combine them all in one ultimate battle scene

Collected Cool:
March's Best Reprint Volumes

RIP HC: BEST OF 1985-2004
(Fantagraphics JAN111195 28.99)
This omnibus collection of *T. Ott*'s scratchboard-style horror comics includes the long-out-of-print ***Tales of Error, Dead End,*** and ***Welcome to Hellville,*** supplemented by 48 pages of never-before-collected tales, including a collaboration with ***Epileptic's*** *David B.*

SETTING THE STANDARD: ALEX TOTH GN
(Fantagraphics JAN111197 $39.99)
The 1950's Standard Comics work of artist's artist *Alex Toth* is spotlighted in this hardcover. Editor *Greg Sadowski* adds a rare interview with the acclaimed creator to this collection of public-domain gems.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS THE WITCHING HOUR TP VOL 1
(DC DEC100251 $19.99)
DC presents another collection of *Joe Orlando*-edited horror from the 1970s (and if you weren't there, you can't imagine how excitingly different these DC horror comics were from the standard fare found on the newsstands). This collection of ***Witching Hour #s 1-21*** includes material by *Alex Toth, Bernie Wrightson, Michael Wm Kaluta, Wally Wood,* and *Gil Kane,* among others.

VENOM BY DANIEL WAY ULTIMATE COLLECTION TP
(Marvel JAN110843 $34.99)
Separated from Eddie Brock, the empathic Venom hops from one host to another as he seeks out people experiencing intense, base emotions in this collection of ***Venom #s 1-18.***

WORLD OF ARCHIE DOUBLE DIGEST #5
(Archie JAN110954 $3.99)
If you missed out on the three-part DC ***Teen Titans/Little Archie*** crossover, here's your chance to enjoy the entire adventure at a bargain price!

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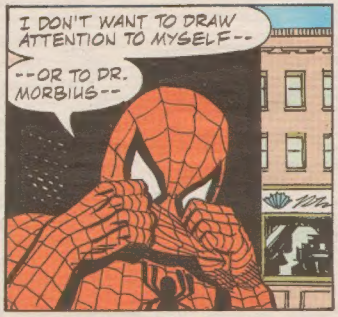
I DON'T WANT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO MYSELF--
--OR TO DR. MORBIUS--
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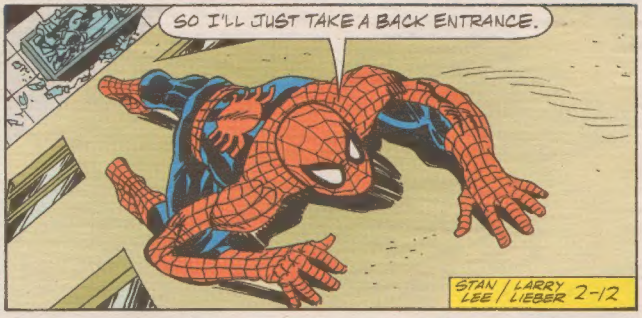

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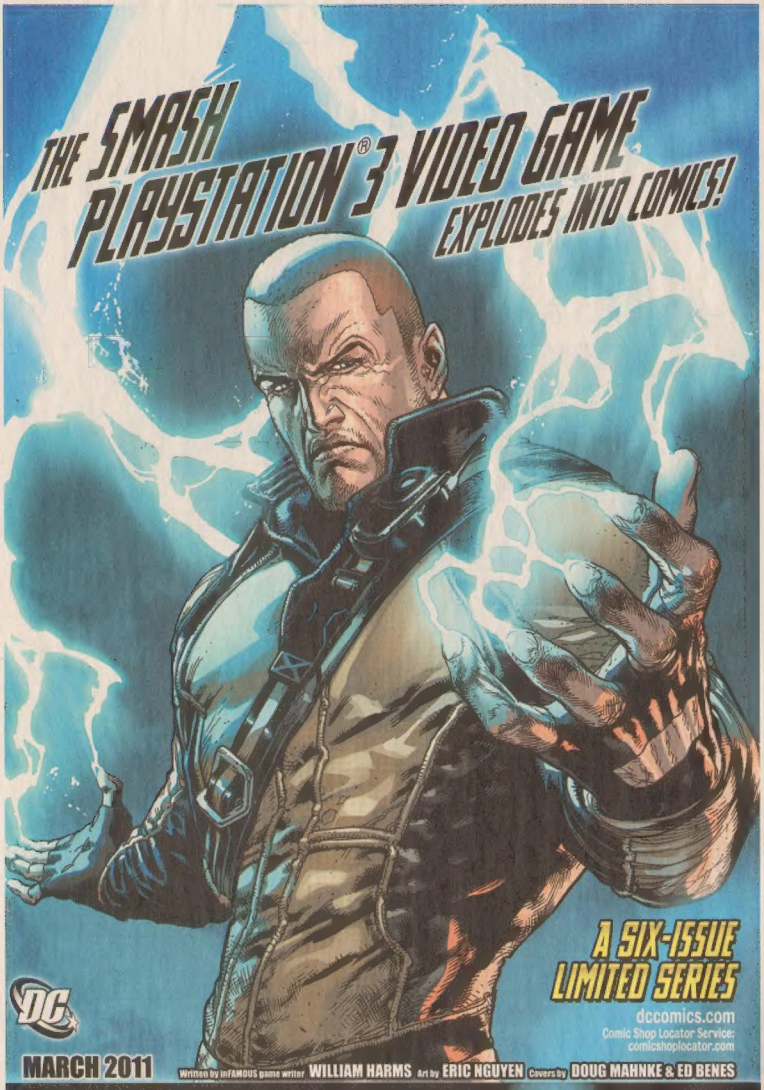
THE SMASH PLAYSTATION® 3 VIDEO GAME EXPLODES INTO COMICS!
A SIX-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
dccomics.com
Comic Shop Locator Service: comicshoplocator.com
MARCH 2011
Written by inFAMOUS game writer WILLIAM HARMS Art by ERIC NGUYEN Covers by DOUG MAHNKE & ED BENES
inFAMOUS

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